

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 08912 150446Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 HA-05 SS-15 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 VO-05 CA-01 /077 W
-----094840 150449Z /10

P R 150415Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7745
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 8912

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: A) STATE 202734, B) STATE 202046

1. WE VELIEVE THE GOM WOULD GO ALONG WITH THE IDEA OF A BROAD-BASED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, AS INDICATED DURING THE US-ASEAN DISCUSSIONS (PARA 4 REF B), PARTICULARLY IF THEY THINK IT WOULD OFFER REASONABLE PROSPECTS OF RESULTS IN TERMS OF SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL OFFERS OF RESETTLEMENT. THEY WOULD NOT WELCOME A CONFERENCE SIMPLY CALLING ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM, WHICH THEY CONSIDER WOULD ONLY ADD TO DOMESTIC PRESSURES ON THEM TO RESTRICT REFUGEE ARRIVALS AND WOULD RISK COMPLICATING THEIR BUDDING RELATIONS WITH HANOI. THE INCREASINLY HEAVY ETHNIC CHINESE MAKEUP OF ARRIVING REFUGEES OBVIOUSLY ADDS TO THESE CONCERNS.

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PAGE 02 KUALA 08912 150446Z

2. MOREOVER, THE MALAYSIANS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IF THEY FELT THE CONFERENCE WERE TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST THE SRV BY U.S. EMPHASIS ON THE RADICAL NATURE OF THE REGIME, AS PARA 5 OF REF A IMPLIES. WE SUSPECT OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD SHARE THIS RELUCTANCE, AS PROBABLY WOULD THE UNHCR ITSELF.

3. WE AGREE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S THINKING THAT RESTRICTED MEETING IN SEPTEMBER WOULD BE USEFUL TO EXPLORE THE IDEA OF A BROADER CONFERENCE. NOT ONLY WOULD IT ALLOW MORE TIME, AS NOTED PARA 6 REF A, BUT IT WOULD ALSO PERMIT FULLER DISCUSSION OF THE ABOVE AND OTHER SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS MADE TO GO AHEAD.

MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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